Several Students, who have attended the Lectures on the Institutions of Medicine in the University of Edinburgh, delivered by Dr DUNCAN senior, *having expressed a wish to be possessed of an accurate copy of his Valedictory Address, he has been induced to put it in print. The following is a correct account of what he said on the 29th of April* 1825, *at the conclusion of the Fifty-fifth Winter Session, during which he has lectured at Edinburgh, and after he had arrived at the Eighty-first year of his age.*

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE now brought to a termination my Lectures on Pathological Physiology, the Philosophy of the Human Body, or, as it has commonly been styled, the Theory of Medicine; and with the remarks offered, I now conclude my academical duties for this Winter Session.

During this course I have delivered more than a Hundred Lectures, without the interruption of even a single day, appointed for academical duty. As a Lecturer on Medicine, at Edinburgh, and in the Eighty-first year of my age, a period at which few are permitted to arrive, notwithstanding the unavoidable infirmities of old age, from which no one is entirely exempt, I have been able to bring my course to its proper ter-

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mination at the stated period, for my Fifty-fifth Winter Session, as a Teacher of Medicine, at Edinburgh. As far as I am myself able to judge, I have never, even at the earliest period of my life, delivered Lectures with more distinctness, and I have never been heard, by intelligent and industrious students, with more attention.

In these Lectures, it has been my constant aim to connect a knowledge of the philosophy of the human body, with the cure of those diseases to which it is subjected; and I think I may venture to assert, that, from what has been here delivered, every attentive hearer may have obtained much useful information, which he could not have derived from the most able medical writers, either ancient or modern, without extensive reading and deep study. I am not, indeed, ignorant of the contempt with which Lectures on the Theory or Philosophy of Medicine, have been treated by impudent and designing empiricks, who pretend to say that such Lectures can afford no additional knowledge in the cure of diseases.

But I leave you to judge for yourselves respecting the utility of my Lectures, and I am not afraid, that your decision will be unfavourable to Medical Science. For, in treating of the pathology of each important function, I have carefully pointed out not only the general principles on which its diseased states are to be combated, but the remedies also, by which the indications of cure are to be fulfilled. I confidently trust, therefore, that you will pronounce a favourable judgment, both with respect to the Institutions of Medicine, as a branch of Medical Education, and of me, as the indivi-

dual Professor, by whom that branch has long been taught at Edinburgh; and I have no dread, that either my coadjutor Dr Alison, or I myself, will sustain any injury from the groundless calumny of arrogant impostors, who scruple not to assert what they know to be false, with the view of promoting their own pecuniary interest.

Permit me, Gentlemen, in putting a period to the present course, to bestow a few minutes in recommending to you, industrious attention in the prosecution of future studies, during the practice of a profession in which you may soon be engaged. Do not imagine, that, when you leave the Schools of Physic, the study of your Profession may, with propriety, be terminated. It is not from the name of having been the pupils of any Teacher, or from the attainment of even the highest medical honours which Universities can confer, that you will be enabled to cure diseases. When you enter upon actual practice, you become the pupils of the most able of all Teachers. You then enter the School of Experience, where you may acquire knowledge that cannot otherwise be obtained. It is not from the most expensive education, or the highest academical titles, that you can restore health to the diseased. To accomplish this object, you must combine with the information which you receive from others, the fruits of your own candid and unprejudiced observations. With a view both to relieve the distress of patients, and to preserve peace of mind to yourselves, you must neglect no opportunity for farther improvement. Even the oldest in the profession have still much to learn, much to correct. Let it, therefore, be ever your aim, to obtain more ex-

tensive and more accurate knowledge of the profession of Medicine in all its branches.

The labour, both mental and corporeal, which you bestow in acquiring Medical knowledge, will be amply recompensed, even by the satisfaction which it affords. For it is not from thoughtless indolence or foolish dissipation, that real happiness is to be derived. Activity and exertion for useful purposes, are the true sources of real felicity: and, indeed, it has with justice been said by an eminent author, *The idle exist only, 'tis the busy alone who live.*

But if industry be necessary for the attainment of happiness in any profession, it is, in a particular manner, necessary in the Practice of Medicine. To the care of the medical practitioner, some of the most important concerns of mankind are entrusted. If, by due attention in the study and in the practice of your profession, you shall be able to restore health to the diseased, you will have the satisfaction of bestowing one of the greatest blessings which this world can afford. It is therefore unnecessary to add more, with the view of recommending to you, continued exertion for the future improvement of Medicine, both as a science and an art. I shall therefore now conclude with returning my best thanks to those pupils who have honoured me with an attentive hearing and regular attendance during the whole of this Winter Session. The conduct of many of you, during the present course has afforded me no inconsiderable satisfaction in the discharge of my duty in this room. From this mark of approbation, conferred by intelligent hearers, I hope I may venture to pre-

sume that I shall hereafter hold some share of their esteem; and, I trust, I may with confidence say that they shall hold a place in my regard and in my affections.

Though I now cease to be your teacher, Gentlemen, yet you may rest assured that I shall ever continue to be your well-wisher. If any opportunity shall hereafter present itself by which I can promote your interest, I trust that the readiness of my exertions will demonstrate the sincerity of my good intentions. And be assured, it is my earnest prayer, that, by your future practice of the healing art, you may do credit to the profession of Medicine, and be a blessing to those whose health is entrusted to your care.

Farewell, Gentlemen.—Accept of my sincere wishes for your future success; and may that success be no more than the well merited reward of Industry—of Ability—and of Virtue.

The Octogenarian Physician, who for many years past, has walked to the top of Arthur's Seat, a high hill in the vicinity of Edinburgh, at an early hour, on the morning of May-day, when young English milk-maids are dancing about the May-pole, paid his annual visit, attended by four grandsons, to that celebrated spot, in the year 1825. Having terminated his academical labours for the fifty-fifth winter session, and having been able to deliver a course of more than an Hundred Lectures, on the appointed days, without even a single interruption, he returned thanks to God, in the following abridgment of the Lord's Prayer.

1.

Father of All, I kneel to Thee,
  Supreme in Heaven adored,
And present here, through all thy works,
  The Universal Lord.

2.

Accept, O God, my grateful thanks,
  For all thy blessings given;
And may on earth thy praise be sung,
  Even as it is in Heaven.

3.

This day be bread, and peace my lot,
  All else beneath the sun
Thou knowest if best bestowed or not;
  And let thy will be done.

4.

To thee, whose temple is All Space,
  Whose altar Earth, Sea, Skies,
One chorus let all beings raise,
  All nature's incense rise.

He afterwards addressed, in the following words, an old Acquaintance, with whom he had lived on terms of intimate friendship, for many years, and whom on that day he met, by appointment, on the top of Arthur's Seat :

Welcome Old Friend, I'm glad to see your face,
On this high hill we meet with mutual grace ;
I've reached its top, though past my eightieth year,
In modern Athens, where is my compeer ?
My legs, thank God, are still for motion free,
I'll stand by them while they can stand by me ;
With minds unclouded, free from fear or pain,
On this fam'd spot, once more we meet again,
Long we have lived on earth, without reproach ;
And now undaunted, see our end approach.
Together we 'll jog on, while we have breath,
Till, to a better world, we 're sent by Death.